

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his examination of the present application, allowance of claims 8-12, and indication of allowability in claims 2-5, 7 and 14-17. The limitations of claim 2 have been added into claim 1. The limitations of claim 14 have been incorporated into claim 13. Claims 5, 7 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, it is the Applicants' belief that independent claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 17 are in allowable form. Insofar as claims 3-4, 9-12 and 15-16 depend from claims 1, 8 and 13, respectively, it is the Applicants' belief that these claims are also allowable.

Upon amendment, this application will have 6 independent claims (claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 17) and 14 total claims (claims 1, 3-5, 7-13 and 15-17). Enclosed please find a form for excess claims.

Disagreement matter of record

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 6 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art. The Applicants do not agree with the grounds for these rejections and wish to make their disagreement a matter of record.

As mentioned in the last response, the Applicants believe that AAPA does not disclose, teach, or suggest the features "a supporting plate **detachably** mounted in the housing"; and "a division module **detachably**

mounted in the housing, the division module having at least one passage connected to the filtering sleeve", as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

However, being desirous to conserve time and funds, the Applicants agree to adopt the Examiner's recommendations. The Applicants understand that claims 2-5, 7 and 14-17 will be allowed if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

The Applicants have attempted to address all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action as the Applicants understand them. The Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. If any point requires further explanation, the Examiner is invited to telephone Troy Cai at (323) 934-2300 or e-mail Troy Cai at tcai@ladasperry.com.

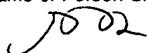
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 10, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Troy Guangyu Cai

(Name of Person Signing)



(Signature)

5/10/04

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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